



Farmworkers and Latinx Working Families United

Date: February 21, 2020

Subject: Support for H.B. 4109

Senator Dembrow, Vice-chair Baertschiger and Members of the Committee

My name is Lorena Manzo, I am a community organizer and I am a member of PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union. I worked in the fields for much of my life. For decades I worked picking berries, apples, and grapes to mention a few.

Throughout my years as a farmworker, I worked picking berries and apples. I was severely exposed to many pesticide chemicals that were used to kill weeds as well as the most dangerous insecticides that are most commonly used in agriculture, including chlorpyrifos. Chlorpyrifos is sprayed on a variety of crops including apples. I perfectly remember the smell of sulfur that would remain in the fields even after fumigation. Sometimes we were notified about an upcoming fumigation and would be laid off from work for three days. However, even days after returning the strong smell of pesticides remained in the workplace-- the residue would even be visible on the crops. It is unfortunate that my coworkers and I had to work in such hazardous conditions.

My parents are elderly people who continue to work in nurseries and in the grape industry and are exposed to pesticides. They often come home from work with the smell of pesticides infused in their clothes or on their skin. I worry about their health and their life, likewise I worry about my kids because we all live in the same household. I *imagine* that lots of pesticide residue, including chlorpyrifos, makes its way into my home and that some way we are all exposed to its negative effects.

The life and health of farm workers has no price, they perform very important jobs and duties that *fulfill* Oregon's economy. For that reason, I support the phase out on the use of Chlorpyrifos in Oregon by passing HB 4109. We must prioritize the health of farm workers and their families.

Sincerely,

Lorena Manzo
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